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Rural District Council of Morpeth

ANNUAL REPORT



of the

ACCE. NO.

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1963



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To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1963.

The vital statistics are less satisfactory than in 1962. The total number of births declined by 14 and the number of deaths increased by 53 as compared with the previous year. The rise in the number of deaths was chiefly accounted for by an increase of 47 in the deaths attributed to diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

The death-rate was 14.08 per 1,000 of the population and somewhat higher than the rate for England and Wales, while the birth-rate of 17.52 per 1,000, was slightly lower than the national average.

The infantile mortality rate, too, was much higher than in 1962 but it should be noted that, out of the total of 11 deaths under the age of one year, 9 occurred during the first week of life.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms were one fewer than in the previous year but the death-rate was slightly higher than that for the whole country although the rate for cancer of the lung was lower than the national average.

There has, over the years, been a steady improvement in water supply and sewerage position and the fact that approximately 99% of the houses in the Rural District now have an internal water supply gives reason for satisfaction. The operation of the Ulgham sewerage system should put an end to the pollution which was for so long a well-founded cause of complaint in the Ulgham area. Further improvements should be brought about in the near future, at Hepscott and Thirston.

The number of new Council houses completed - 151 at Pegswood, 15 at Longhorsley and 6 at Scot's Gap - was the largest in any one year since the end of the war. By agreement with the National Coal Board 75 of the Pegswood houses will be let to tenants of the Board's choosing, from other areas, for a period of 10 years.

In conclusion I wish to thank Councillors for the consideration they have shown me and, also, express my appreciation of the work of the Public Health Inspectors and the assistance so readily given by all departments of the Council.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
C.B. McGregor, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Morpeth.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health) Housing) Meat) Inspector	MR. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I., S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs.
Additional P.H. Inspector	MR. J.T. NICHOLSON, R.S.I., S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Dacre Street, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 3255.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-1963 population was 17,570, an increase of 60 on that for mid-1962. The provision of houses at Pegswood for miners coming from other areas, is no doubt, the cause of the increase.

There is no change in the types of employment available to residents in the district, viz. agriculture and coal-mining.

Area in Acres	79,193
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1963..	17,570
Rateable Value	£529,409
One Panny Rate Produces	£2,177
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963)	5,248

VITAL STATISTICS.

(the figures in brackets are for England and Wales)

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	280	149	131
Illegitimate	5	3	2
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	285	152	133
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Crude Birth Rate	16.22 per 1,000
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.08) per 1,000	17.52 (18.2)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	27.3 (17.3)
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DEATHS.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
219	121	98

Crude Death Rate	12.46
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.13) per 1,000	14.08 (12.2)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil (0.28)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	11	5	6

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	38.6 (20.9)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	Nil
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	10	5	5

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	9	5	4

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	35.09	(14.2)
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	31.58	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births)	58.02	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 wks	1 - 2 months	3 - 5 months	6 - 8 months	9 - 11 months	Total under 1 yr.
Prematurity	3	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Birth Injury	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital Abnormality	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Broncho-pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
 Total	3	6	-	1	-	10	-	1	-	-	11

The following table gives the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Infantile Deaths under 1 year	4	7	8	8	11	7	15	4	5	11
Infantile mortality	13.75	26.12	28.57	25.08	33.03	23.33	51.9	14.87	16.78	38.6

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATH.

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, (other forms)	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	5
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	9
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
16.	Diabetes	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	15
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	29	20
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	3
20.	Other Heart Diseases	18	13
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	4	2
22.	Influenza	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	3	3
24.	Bronchitis	8	-
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	14
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1
34.	All other accidents	1	2
35.	Suicide	2	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		Total	121
			98
		<hr/>	<hr/>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes	Total Number	% of Total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	92	42.01
Malignant Neoplasms	38	17.35
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	30	13.7
Total	160	73.06

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Bos	Neg
Chest Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	2	Not available
P.H. Inspector	Animal gland "	"	2
General Practitioner	Throat swab for pathogenic organisms	4	-
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	-	1
General Practitioner	" " "	-	3
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for food poisoning organisms	7	9
General Practitioner	" " "	4	-
5 Sensitivity Tests were carried out			

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances and four drivers are stationed at Broomhill.

Other parts of the Rural District are served by ambulances stationed at Ashington and Morpeth.

Nursing in the Home.

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by Northumberland County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held regularly at Broomhill, Pegswood, Widdrington, Lynemouth, Linton, Longhorsley, Hartburn and Acklington Aerodrome.

At the end of the year a new clinic was in course of erection at Widdrington to replace the unsatisfactory premises previously used. The clinic, when completed, will permit extension of the services offered to mothers and children in the Widdrington area.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water Samples.

Samples of private and public water supplies were collected and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle upon Tyne for bacteriological examination.

The sources of those samples returning unsatisfactory results were further investigated and recommendations were made for effecting improvement following which repeat samples were obtained.

Altogether 124 samples of water were taken and the following tables give the date, place of collection and result of the examination in each case.

Public Supply - Tynemouth Main.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place of collection</u>	<u>Result</u>
4.	8. 1. 63.	Tap, Bridge End Cottages, Felton	Nil per 100 ml.
5.	15. 1. 63.	Tap 7, Longhirst Village	1 " "
6.	15. 1. 63.	Tap 3, Ena Street, Widdrington Stn.	1 " "
7.	15. 1. 63.	Tap 75, Hedgehope Tce. E. Chevington	5 " "
8.	15. 1. 63.	Tap 16, Chibburn Avenue, Hadston	50 " "
9.	29. 1. 63.	Tap 2, Front Street, Stobswood	Nil " "
10.	29. 1. 63.	Tap 8, School Row, Widdrington	Nil " "
11.	29. 1. 63.	Tap 1, Hedgehope Tce. E. Chevington	Nil " "
12.	29. 1. 63.	Tap 16, Chibburn Ave. Hadston	Nil " "
13.	9. 2. 63.	Tap 3, Queen St. Lynemouth	Nil " "
14.	9. 2. 63.	Tap Caravan Site, Cresswell	3 " "
16.	9. 2. 63.	Tap West View, Ellington	Nil " "
23.	12. 3. 63.	Tap 3, Agricultural Cottages, Netherwitton	Nil " "
32.	2. 4. 63.	Tap North Birks, Longhorsley	Nil " "
33.	23. 4. 63.	Tap Council Garage, Pegswood	Nil " "
34.	23. 4. 63.	Tap Blakemoor Drive, Cresswell	Nil " "
35.	23. 4. 63.	Tap, Hemscott Hill Farm	Nil " "
36.	23. 4. 63.	Tap, Druridge Farm Cottages	Nil " "
41.	28. 5. 63.	Tap 4, Back Row, Cambo	Nil " "
43.	28. 5. 63.	Tap Cafe, Wallington Hall	Nil " "
59.	9. 7. 63.	Tap Seaton Ryde, Tranwell	Nil " "
65.	16. 7. 63.	Tap, Mitford Steads, Morpeth	Nil " "
69.	23. 7. 63.	Tap, Hemelspeth Farm, Felton	Nil " "
71.	30. 7. 63.	Tap, Blakemoor Drift, Cresswell	Nil " "
72.	30. 7. 63.	Tap, Hemscott Hill, Cresswell	Nil " "
73.	30. 7. 63.	Tap, Cresswell Caravan Site	Nil " "
80.	16. 9. 63.	Tap Bridge End Cottages, Felton	Nil " "
88.	1.10. 63.	Tap, The Cottage, Stanton Village	3 " "
92.	8.10. 63.	Tap, The Retreat, Longhorsley	Nil " "
104.	5.11. 63.	Tap, Cottage, Stanton Morpeth	Nil " "
113.	2.12. 63.	Tap, Northside, Meldon, Morpeth	Nil " "
115.	2.12. 63.	Tap, The Cottage, Hartburn	Nil " "
117.	10.12. 63.	Tap, Roselea, Causey Park, Morpeth	Nil " "
119.	10.12. 63.	Tap, 96, Married Quarters, R.A.F. Acklington, Morpeth	Nil " "
121.	17.12. 63.	Tap, 7, Longhirst Village Morpeth	Nil " "
122.	17.12. 63.	Tap, Rose Villa, Ulgham	Nil " "
123.	17.12. 63.	Tap 79, Hedgehope Tce. E. Chevington	Nil " "
124.	17.12. 63.	Tap, St.John's Estate, Broomhill	Nil " "

Private Supply.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place of Collection</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>	<u>Result</u>
1.	8. 1. 63.	Tap, Earsdon Moor Morpeth	Deep Well	Nil per 100
2.	8. 1. 63.	Tap, Earsdon Mill, Morpeth	Shallow Well	180 " "
3.	8. 1. 63.	Tap, Thirston New Houses Felton	" " Nil	" "

cont'd.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place of collection</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>	<u>Result</u>
15.	9. 2. 63.	Pipe outlet, Crsswell Village	Spring	Nil per 100 ml.
17.	19. 2. 63.	Tap, East Fenrother, Morpeth	Bore	11 " "
18.	19. 2. 63.	Tap, Middle Fenrother Morpeth	Spring	Nil " "
19.	19. 2. 63.	Filter, Northgate Hospital Morpeth	Bore	Nil " "
20.	19. 2. 63.	Tap, Northgate Hospital	Bore	Nil " "
21.	12. 3. 63.	Tap, Longlea, Netherwitton	Spring	5 " "
22.	12. 3. 63.	Tap Netherwitton Village	Spring	1 " "
24.	12. 3. 63.	Tap Netherwitton Hall Cottage	Spring	160 " "
25.	19. 3. 63.	Tap Netherwitton Barns	Spring	17 " "
26.	19. 3. 63.	Reservoir, Netherwitton Barns	Spring	25 " "
27.	19. 3. 63.	Tap in Byre Netherwitton Barns	Spring	25 " "
28.	19. 3. 63.	Tap The Cottage Netherwitton Barns	Spring	35 " "
29.	2. 4. 63.	Tap Southward Edge Longhorsley	Bore	Nil " "
30.	2. 4. 63.	Tap North High Moor Longhorsley	Spring	13 " "
31.	2. 4. 63.	Tap South High Moor "	Spring	Nil " "
37.	7. 5. 63.	Tap Abbey Mill Farm, Morpeth	Spring	Nil " "
38.	7. 5. 63.	Pump, Meldon Station, Morpeth	Shallow Well	Nil " "
39.	7. 5. 63.	Tap, Angerton Steads, Morpeth	Spring	Nil " "
40.	7. 5. 63.	Pump, Angerton Station, Morpeth	Spring	1 " "
42.	28. 5. 63.	Cistern Rugeley Walls Cambo	Spring	Nil " "
44.	11. 6. 63.	Tap Cottage, Linden Hillhead	Shallow Well	Nil " "
45.	11. 6. 63.	Well Cottage, Linden Hillhead	Shallow Well	Nil " "
46.	11. 6. 63.	Tap Linden Hillhead Farm Longhorsley	Bore	Nil " "
47.	11. 6. 63.	Reservoir Linden Hillhead Farm	Bore	Nil " "
48.	18. 6. 63.	Tap, West Earsdon	Bore	160 " "
49.	18. 6. 63.	Tap, Wintrick Farm Felton	Spring	35 " "
50.	18. 6. 63.	Tap, Tile Sheds Felton	Spring	180+ " "
51.	18. 6. 63.	Reservoir Tile Sheds, Felton	Spring	35 " "
52.	21. 6. 63.	Tank, Tile Sheds, Felton	Spring	180 " "
53.	21. 6. 63.	Tap, Middle Earsdon, Morpeth	Bore	Nil " "
54.	21. 6. 63.	Tank, Tile Sheds, Felton	Spring	160 " "
55.	2. 7. 63.	Reservoir Wintrick Farm Felton	Spring	180+ " "
56.	2. 7. 63.	No. 2 Inlet Wintrick Farm Felton	Spring	180+ " "
57.	2. 7. 63.	No. 1 " " " "	Spring	180+ " "
58.	2. 7. 63.	No. 2 " " " "	Spring	180+ " "
60.	9. 7. 63.	Tap, East Edington, Morpeth	Shallow Well	50 " "
61.	9. 7. 63.	Tap, West Edington Morpeth	Spring	50 " "
62.	9. 7. 63.	Reservoir Wintrick Farm Felton	Spring	180+ " "
63.	16. 7. 63.	Tap, East Edington, Morpeth	Shallow Well	50 (Type 1)
64.	16. 7. 63.	Tap, West " " "	Spring	180 per 100 ml.
66.	23. 7. 63.	Tap, West Moor Plantation Felton	Spring	Nil " "
67.	23. 7. 63.	Tap, East Howdens Cottage, Felton	Shallow Well	180+ " "
68.	23. 7. 63.	Tap, West Howdens Felton	Shallow Well	Nil " "
70.	30. 7. 63.	Pipe, Cresswell Village	Spring	Nil " "
74.	3. 9. 63.	Tap, Hagg Farm Causey Park	Spring	Nil " "
75.	3. 9. 63.	Tap, Field Head, Longhorsley	Bore	180+ " "
76.	3. 9. 63.	Tap, Bockenfield, Felton	Spring	Nil " "
77.	3. 9. 63.	Tap, Eshottheugh, Felton	Spring	180+ " "
78.	16. 9. 63.	Reservoir West Moor, Thiraston	Bore	14 " "
79.	16. 9. 63.	Borehole, West Moor, Thiraston	Bore	Nil " "
81.	17. 9. 63.	Tap, The Helm, Eshott	Bore	50 " "
82.	17. 9. 63.	Tap, No.1 Cottage, Eshott	Bore	Nil " "
83.	17. 9. 63.	Tap, Thiraston Mill, Felton	Spring	8 (Type 1)
84.	17. 9. 63.	Reservoir, West Moor Farm Felton	Bore	1 (Type 1)
85.	1.10. 63.	Tap, The Cottage, Lough House Espley.	Spring	3 per 100 ml
86.	1.10. 63.	Tap The Oaks, Abshiel	Spring	Nil " "
87.	1.10. 63.	Tap Stanton House, Morpeth	Spring	Nil " "
89.	8.10. 63.	Tap, Fenrother Lane, Morpeth	Spring	3 " "
90.	8.10. 63.	Tap, Whemleyburn Farm Longhorsley	Spring	Nil " "
91.	8.10. 63.	Tap, Heatherlands Longhorsley	Longhorsley Old Supply	1 " "
93.	15.10. 63.	Tap Earsdon Hill Morpeth	Bore	Nil " "
94.	15.10. 63.	Tap Burgham, Morpeth	Spring	35 " "
95.	15.10. 63.	Tap, East Linden, Longhorsley	Spring	13 " "
96.	15.10. 63.	Tap, South Linden Longhorsley	Spring	Nil " "

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place of collection</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>	<u>Result.</u>
97.	22.10. 63.	Reservoir West Moor, Felton	Bore	.3 (type 1)
98.	22.10. 63.	Well, Causey Park Bridge	Spring	1 per 100ml
99.	22.10. 63.	Tap, Bridge House, Causey Park	Shallow Well	180+ "
100.	22.10. 63.	Tap, Oak Inn, Causey Park Bridge	Spring	.3 (type 1)
101.	5.11. 63.	Tap, Low Highlaws, Morpeth	Spring	50 per 100ml
102.	5.11. 63.	Tap, Harelaw, Longhorsley	Bore	Nil "
103.	5.11. 63.	Tap, Smallburn, Longhorsley	Spring	50 "
105.	12.11. 63.	Reservoir, West Moor, Thirston	Bore	90 "
106.	12.11. 63.	Tap, Hedley Wood, Longhorsley	Spring	.3 "
107.	12.11. 63.	Tap, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	Spring	180+ "
108.	12.11. 63.	Tap, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	Spring	180+ "
109.	19.11. 63.	Bore St. Andrew's Hospital Morpeth	Bore	Nil "
110.	19.11. 63.	Tap " " "	Bore	Nil "
111.	19.11. 63.	Reservoir, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	Spring	180+ "
112.	19.11. 63.	Reservoir " " "	Spring	180+ "
114.	2.12. 63.	Tap, Needless Hall, Meldon	Spring	35 "
116.	2.12. 63.	Pipe end, Folly House, Morpeth	Spring	30 "
118.	10.12. 63.	Tap, Thirston New Houses, Felton	Shallow Well	Nil "
120.	10.12. 63.	Reservoir West Moor Farm, Felton	Bore	1 "

Water Supplies from Public Mains.

The figures given below are estimates of the numbers of houses and population supplied (a) direct to dwelling and (b) by standpipes.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>DIRECT TO DWELLING</u>		<u>FROM STANDPIPES.</u>	
	<u>No. of Houses.</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>
Cresswell	56	183	1	1
East Chevington	1052	3469	4	10
Ellington	391	1235	1	2
Hartburn	60	183	2	2
Hebron	104	338	-	-
Hepscott	120	426	4	7
Longhirst	156	451	-	-
Longhorsley	187	513	2	4
Lynemouth	779	2625	-	-
Meldon	71	243	-	-
Mitford	114	354	3	5
Netherwitton	85	256	-	-
Pegswood	945	3213	-	-
Thirston	139	413	3	8
Tritlington	72	236	-	-
Ulgham	678	2291	1	4
Wallington	147	454	-	-
West Chevington	25	109	4	12
Widdrington	68	249	9	25
	5249	17241	34	80

This is a further improvement on last year. Over 99% of the houses in the area have now an internal water supply.

Of the above, 252 houses with a population of approximately 750 have a private water supply.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The new sewerage system at Ulgham is now in full operation and further schemes are being prepared for Hepscott and West Thirston.

New Drains with connections to Council sewers were provided at:-

Cresswell	-	2
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and with connections to septic tanks at:-

Ulgham	-	1
Thirston	-	1

Conversions and abolition of conservancy types of sanitary accommodation under section 47, Public Health Act, 1936 continues steadily and payment of grant was made involving 25 dwellings.

At the end of the year it was estimated that there were remaining in use within the Rural district some 142 conservancy type closets. Every effort continues to be made to effect their abolition.

Public Cleansing.

Collection throughout the whole of the rural area of household refuse, continued satisfactorily within the limits imposed by plant and labour force. Some difficulty in the collection service resulted from the severe wintry conditions of the early months but was soon overcome with the return of better weather. We were fortunate to escape injury to personnel and damage to plant during this very trying period.

Refuse Disposal.

The existing disposal sites at Broomhill, East Chevington, Widdrington, Lynemouth, Longhirst, Pegswood, Longhorsley and Causey Park continue to be used and maintained to the best possible standard within the limitations previously mentioned.

With two exceptions these disposal sites are above ground level in exposed situations and with the continuing increase, in household refuse, of papers, plastics and other light weight materials, a litter problem of growing magnitude is created which is both difficult and costly to control.

Methods of disposal practiced by small authorities for economic reasons leave much to be desired and it becomes increasingly obvious that such authorities, in the not too far distant future, will have to give serious thought to amalgamation for the purpose of providing central modern plant for disposal purposes, in the interests of hygiene generally.

As usual every disposal site was regularly inspected for vermin and/or other nuisance and preventive action taken as found necessary.

Cleansing.

Informal action under section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, was taken throughout the year for the provision of 235 standard dust bins and 77 dust bins were renewed to Council owned dwellings. Visits for this purpose and for purposes of tips and plant maintenance were made on 227 separate occasions.

The cost for collection and disposal including ancillary services, amounted to 36/7.6d. per ton.

Caravans and Caravan Sites.

The demand for caravan sites for holiday purposes continued during the year and a total of 131 visits were made in the investigation, inspection and control of caravans within the rural area.

Caravans and Caravan Sites cont'd.

Four applications involving 173 caravans were received during the year for the use of land as sites for caravans, one of which, involving one caravan only, was for residential purposes. Planning permission was obtained in each case and licences issued in accordance with section 3(3) of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Development of the proposed sites was commenced in one instance only and with one exception, - a temporary renewal of permission for holiday use for one caravan, - none of the sites was occupied.

The sole application for use of land for residential caravan purposes was abandoned when the family upon whose behalf the application was made, obtained suitable permanent housing accommodation.

As a result of action by the Northumberland County Council Planning Department, one unsatisfactory caravan site used for residential purposes was cleared.

The Council's holiday caravan site on the coast at Cresswell continues to be popular and an attempt was made to improve site amenities in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Model Standards of the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Additional drainage and water supply points were provided and approximately half of the site area was levelled and reseeded. Meantime these operations prevented use of one half of the site and made necessary an extension of the site to the west to cater for those caravans displaced.

, For the purpose of preparation and supervision of the works and general maintenance 168 visits were made to the site during the year.

The site now covers an area of thirteen acres and when completed will provide sites for approximately 250 caravans.

Public Conveniences.

No additional public conveniences were provided during 1963 and the Cambo scheme continued to be delayed pending agreement on siting.

Vandalism continues to be the major problem in the maintenance of these essential amenities.

Complaints of nuisance in and around 'lay-bys' on main highways because of the absence of public amenities in these situations, were referred to the Minister of Transport. The results of his investigations are not yet available.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The rodent operative continued with his duties of regular inspection and treatment, as found necessary of all Council properties including buildings and surface structures, refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal plants etc. Routine surveys were made of business and agricultural premises as the operative progressed through the various areas of the district and the following table gives details of the work undertaken.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

Non-Agricultural					Agric- ultur- al.
1 Local Authority	2 Dwelling Houses	3 All other (inc. (inc. Business Council Houses.)	4 Total of Cols		
1,2 & 3					
1. Number of properties in L.A.'s District	32	5248	613	5893	261
2. Total number of <u>Properties inspected as</u> <u>a result of notification</u>	4	51	19	74	5
Number of such proper- ties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat:-	Major	-	-	-	-
	Minor	2	40	14	56
Ship	Major	-	-	-	-
Rat:-	Minor	-	-	-	-
House	Major	-	-	-	1
Mouse	Minor	2	11	5	18
3. Total number of <u>properties inspected in</u> the course of survey under the Act.	28	444	25	497	10
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common	Major	-	-	-	-
Rat:-	Minor	10	76	16	102
Ship	Major	-	-	-	-
Rat:-	Minor	-	-	-	-
House	Major	-	-	-	1
Mouse:-	Minor	-	14	6	20
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose).	-	-	-	-	-
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common	Major	-	-	-	-
Rat:-	Minor	-	-	-	-
Ship	Major	-	-	-	-
Rat:-	Minor	-	-	-	-

TYPE OF PROPERTY

Non-Agricultural

Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (inc. (incl. Business Council Premises) Houses.	Totals of Cols 1, 2, & 3	Agri-cultural.

House Major
Mouse:- Minor

5. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections

83 495 44 622 15

6. Number of infested properties (in Sections 2, 3 and 4) treated by the L.A. 14 141 41 196 13

7. Total treatment carried out including re-treatments 61 138 32 231 9

8. Number of notices served under section 4 of the Act:-

- a) Treatment
- b) Structural work
(i.e. Proofing)

9. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect.4 of the Act.

10. Legal Proceedings

11. Number of "Black" control schemes carried out

N.B. The above table is a copy of the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to the 12 months ended 31st December, 1963.

Mosquito Control.

There were no complaints of mosquito nuisance during the year but the suspected sites were visited and treatment undertaken as found necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1961.

There is a total of 47 premises within the area which are registered under the requirements of the above Acts. Four of these premises have no mechanical power.

There are no outworkers within the area.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number On Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	16	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the L.A.	31	82	Nil	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excl. outworkers' premises).	12	25	Nil	Nil
Total	47	123	Nil	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
			By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffectual drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1963.

A total of 1088 separate visits were made to properties throughout the rural district for the purposes of repair, improvement, eradication of nuisance, and other duties, under the requirements of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Number of Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	172
b) By other bodies or persons	47

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	1
3. Houses closed, not demolished	26
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	2

Repairs.Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

1. By informal action	19
2. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	1
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	5
--	---

<u>A. Discretionary Grants</u>	<u>No. of separate houses.</u>
1. Applications submitted to L.A. during year	11
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	11
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£334
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	478

<u>B. Standard Grants.</u>	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	6	48
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	4	37
b) Wash hand basin	4	39
c) Hot water supply	3	27
d) Water closet	5	40
e) Food store	1	20

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk.

No. of registered dairies	6
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Samples of milk from retailers within the rural district continued to be taken by the County Health Inspector and these were as follows:-

<u>Retailers within the Rural District.</u>	6
Pasteurised	7
Tuberculin Tested	1
Pasteurised - Tuberculin Tested	3
<u>Retailers outside the Rural District.</u>	3
Pasteurised	10
Tuberculin Tested	3
Pasteurised - Tuberculin Tested	Nil

All samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

All pasteurised samples satisfied the Phosphatase Test.

One sample of raw T.T. milk was examined biologically for tuberculosis and Br. Abortus and proved negative.

Meat and Other Foods.

Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	536	-	-	1189	416
Number inspected	536	-	-	1189	416
All Diseases except <u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	162	-	-	3	51
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	30.233	-	-	.252	12.259
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis only.</u>					
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number affected with Cysticercosis	.373	-	-	-	-

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspector.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Tins</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Ox Kidney soup	1	9	-
Corned Beef	8	40	12
Cooked Ham	8	96	7½
Pork	1	-	12
Chopped Ham	1	11	6
Lamb Chops and Pork Sausage	2	1	15
Chopped Pork	1	-	12
Tongue	1	-	12
Beetroot	1	1	4
Tomatoes	59	58	15
Scotch Broth	1	-	15
Beans in Tomato sauce	1	1	-
Beans	12	9	-
Butter Beans	4	4	-
Cream of Chicken Soup	1	-	15
Ox Tail Soup	1	-	15
Steak	1	-	7¾
Vienna Sausages	3	-	12
Whole Carrots	2	1	9
Peas	22	21	13
Rice Pudding	6	5	13½
Gooseberries	5	5	3
Peaches	6	5	15
Pears	48	41	13½
Strawberries	9	8	7
Plums	2	1	15
Rhubarb	2	1	15
Oranges	1	-	11
Pineapple Cubes	1	1	-
Grapefruit	10	11	14
Evaporated Milk	5	-	-

Food Premises.

(a) The number of food premises registered in the area by type of business is as follows:-

Butchers	6
Bakers	3
General Dealers	50
	59

(b) The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Butchers	6
Fried Fish Shops	3
Sale of Ice-cream	46
No. of registered	
Dairies	6
	61

There were three additions to the register during the year involving the sale of ice-cream.

Altogether 892 visits were made to food premises and I am pleased to report that the standard of hygiene remains good.

Every effort is made to maintain this high standard by regular visits and by the distribution of educational posters etc.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year										75 years & over	Total
	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	3	1	10
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	
Whooping Cough	3	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	
Measles	13	67	65	123	4	2	-	-	-	-	274	
Total	16	63	74	134	4	2	-	1	1	5	3	316

Measles.

The expected epidemic of Measles began in January, during which month 40 cases occurred. In February the number of cases rose to 88 and in March was 64. Thereafter cases continued to occur until November when there were 5. Lynemouth and Widdrington were the areas from which the majority of the notifications came.

Food Poisoning.

The three cases of food poisoning were all due to organisms of the *Salmonella* group but were quite unrelated to one another. It was suspected that two of the cases acquired their infection outside the district but in no cases was the source identified.

Diphtheria.

This disease has caused no illness during the past fourteen years and has caused no death since 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As mentioned in previous reports the level of acceptance of protection against diphtheria continues to be very satisfactory.

Diphtheria Immunisation cont'd

During 1963, the primary course of treatment was given to 255 pre-school and 2 school children while 239 pre-school and 391 school children received re-inforcing injections. Of those who completed the primary course 252 were treated with triple antigen, which gives protection, simultaneously, against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1963, oral vaccine replaced the Salk vaccine almost entirely. The primary course of protection against poliomyelitis was given to 1,150 persons and 1,745 received re-inforcing doses.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1963.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp	Non-Resp	Tot.		Resp	Non-Resp	Tot.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-

Four new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, which is double the number of such cases notified in 1962 but for the second successive year there was no death from this disease.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D. Nil

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales 0.056 per 1,000

Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D. Nil

Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales 0.007 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1963.

Site	Male					Female				
	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over
Brain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Jaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Oesophagus	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchus	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	1
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	5
Stomach	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
Pancreas	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gall-bladder	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Colon	1	-	1	2	3	7	-	2	3	2
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Cervix	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Rectum	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bladder	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	1	6	7	18	-	2	10	6
										20

The total number of deaths from malignant neoplasms is one less than in the previous year and the number of deaths from cancer of the lung is one more.

Cancer of the large intestine caused 14 deaths, which is a very high proportion of the total deaths from malignant neoplasms.

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District	0.341 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.519 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District	1.821 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.658 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District	2.162 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.117 per 1,000

